



## **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

Region 2 Headquarters  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
Phone 406-542-5500

October 8, 2015

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to acquire fee title to 320 acres from Doug and Annette Rehbein, as an addition to FWP's adjacent 34,721-acre Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area, located south of Tarkio in Mineral County. This private property has unique ecological importance to the Fish Creek watershed as valuable habitat and as a corridor for wildlife movement and dispersal. The acquisition would include 1.3 miles of West Fork Fish Creek, also protecting associated riparian, wetland and floodplain areas that support many wildlife species as well as native fish.

FWP will hold a public hearing in Alberton on October 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) at 6:30 p.m. at the Alberton Community Center (701 Railroad Ave) to discuss the proposed acquisition, answer questions, and take public comment.

The EA may be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing [shrose@mt.gov](mailto:shrose@mt.gov); or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Public Notices," beginning October 8).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (webpage above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail, phone or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than November 6, 2015.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Arnold", is written over a horizontal line.

Randy Arnold  
Regional Supervisor

RA/sr